

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife and Fisheries

August 11, 2016



Proposed Orders - Information

- For Information – Director
 - Order to Regulate the Use of the Otsego Dam Area, Allegan County (LUOD Amendment No. 7 of 2016)
 - Order to Restrict the Use of Motorized Vehicles on Specific Hunting Trails in the Cedar River Grouse Enhanced Management System, Garden Grade Grouse Enhanced Management System, and the Melstrand Grouse Enhanced Management System (LUOD No. 9 of 2016)
 - Fisheries Order 243.16: State-Licensed Commercial Fishing



Proposed Orders - Action

- For Action – Director
 - Order to Add Designated State Game and Wildlife Areas (LUOD No. 5 of 2016)
 - Order to Regulate Target Shooting on State Game and Wildlife Areas (LUOD No. 6 of 2016)
 - Order to Designate Watkins Lake as a Michigan State Park, Jackson County (LUOD 8 of 2016)



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
 - New Zealand Mudsnaills, DEQ/DNR Sampling Effort
 - State-Licensed Commercial Fishing, Fisheries Order 243.16
- Wildlife Chief Update
 - Order to Regulate the Use of the Otsego Dam Area, Allegan County (LUOD Amendment No. 7 of 2016)
 - Order to Restrict the Use of Motorized Vehicles on Specific Hunting Trails in the Cedar River Grouse Enhanced Management System, Garden Grade Grouse Enhanced Management System, and the Melstrand Grouse Enhanced Management System (LUOD No. 9 of 2016)





Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

August 11, 2016



Catch-and-Release Mortality of Lake Trout



- Release mortality counts against harvest limit in Treaty waters
- 1988 estimate (15%) had low sample size (67 tagged)
- New estimate (41%), better study design, larger sample size (>5,000 tagged)



Catch-and-Release Mortality of Lake Trout (2)



- Length limits become less effective for controlling harvest
- Angler behavior is key:
 - Keep smaller trout
 - Stop fishing when bag achieved
 - Fish less lines to extend trip length
- Stress accurate reporting



Pier Fishing



New Zealand Mudsnails

- DEQ/DNR Sampling Effort
- NO snails found in:
 - Muskegon, White Rivers
 - Betsie, Baldwin Rivers
 - Platte, Rogue Rivers
 - Manistee, Little Manistee
 - East Br Paw Paw
- Positive for snails at:
 - South, Main, East Br. Au Sable
 - Boardman River
 - Pere Marquette River



FO 243 – State Licensed Commercial Fishing

- Director's authority lies within Part 467
- Propose to renew for one year
- Regulations: trap net depths, lake whitefish seasons/size limits, etc.





Questions?

Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Chief
Wildlife Division



Wildlife Update

- New Veterinary Supervisor for the Wildlife Health Section – Dr. Kelly Straka
- Update on USFWS Moose Listing
- Recent Genetic Study on Eastern Wolves
- State Game Area Blue Ribbon Panel Report

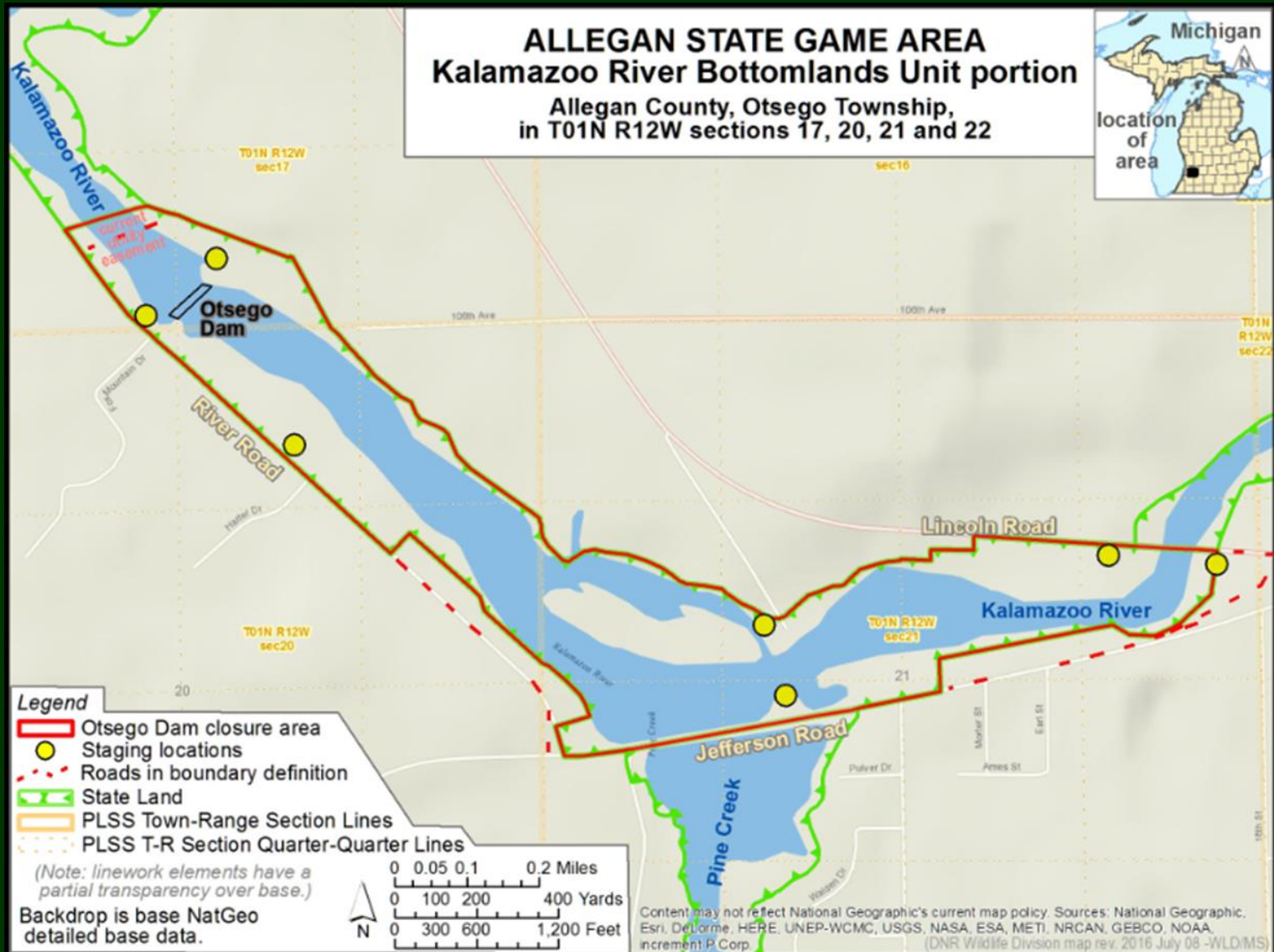


LUOD No. 7 of 2016

- Order to Regulate Use of the Otsego Dam Area, Allegan County
 - Temporary closure of Department-managed land at the Otsego Dam structure and certain surrounding lands along the Kalamazoo River
 - Closure area is ~185 acres
 - Must comply with the EPA to remove PCB's and soil materials that are a threat to public health and the environment
 - The project is expected to commence this summer and conclude by April of 2018



Otsego Dam Closure

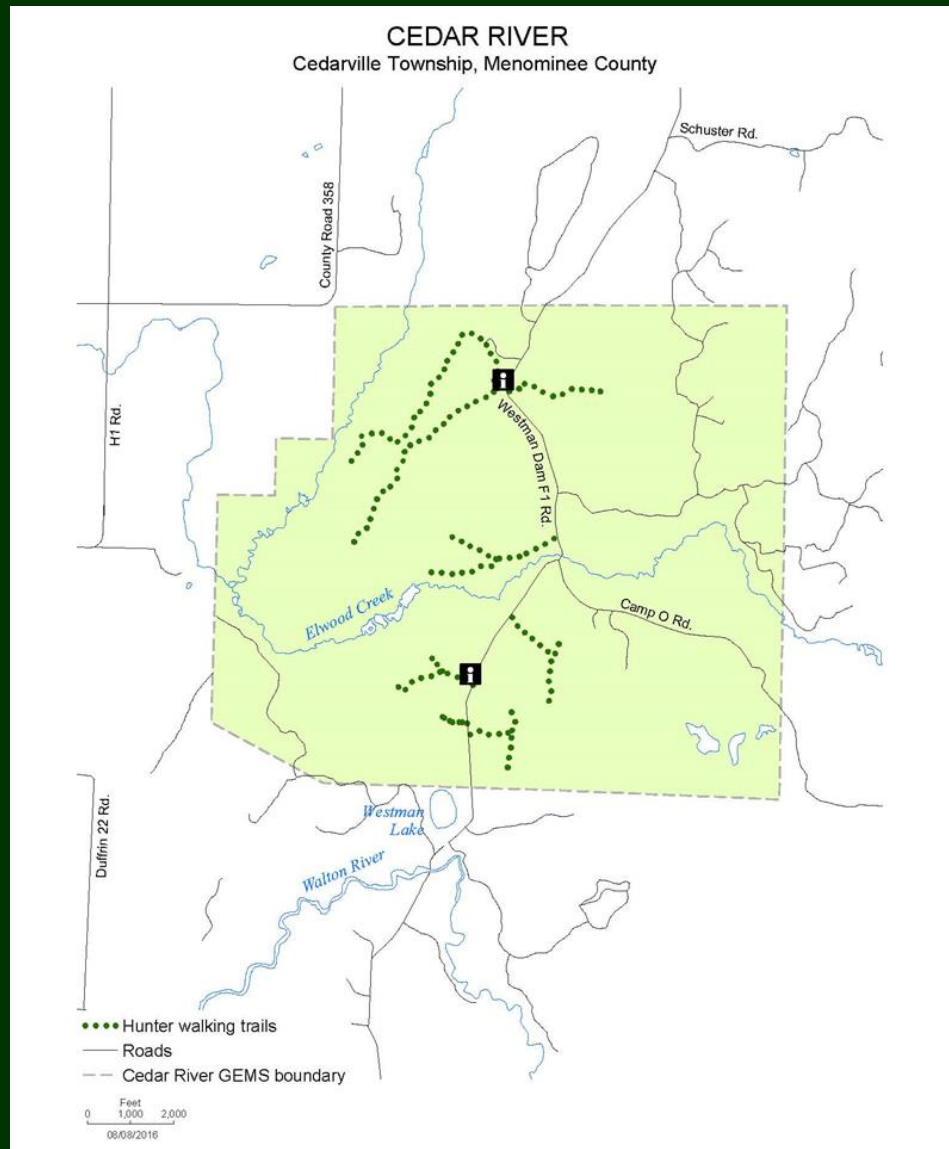


LUOD No. 9 of 2016

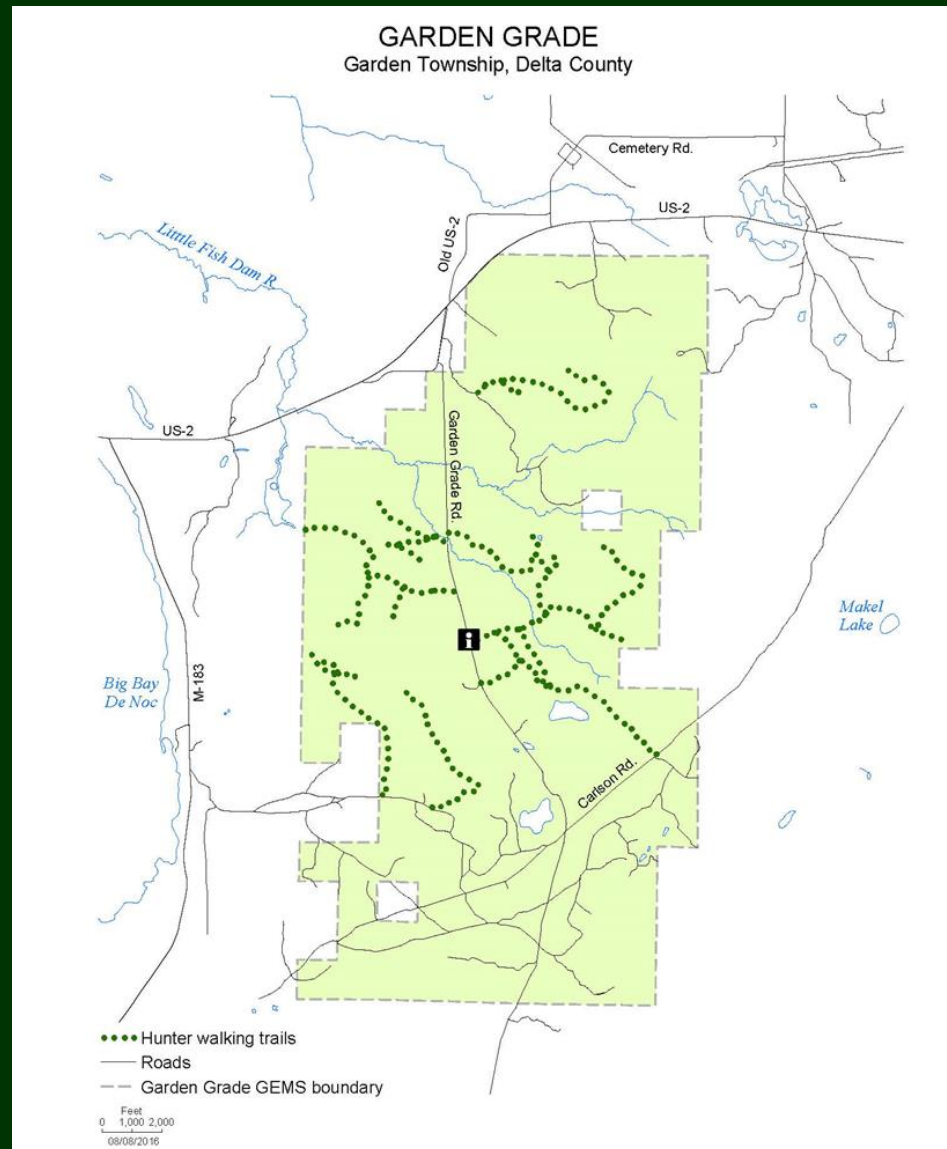
- Order to Restrict the Use of Motorized Vehicles on Specific Hunting Trails in the Cedar River Grouse Enhanced Management System (GEMS), Garden Grade GEMS, and the Melstrand GEMS
 - Prohibit the operation of a motorized vehicle within the Cedar River GEMS, Garden Grade GEMS, and the Melstrand GEMS, where gated, posted, or otherwise blocked without written permission issued by the Department.
 - Department employees and their designees will be allowed motorized vehicle access, as well as emergency personnel performing official duties.
 - Dedications will be made in September.



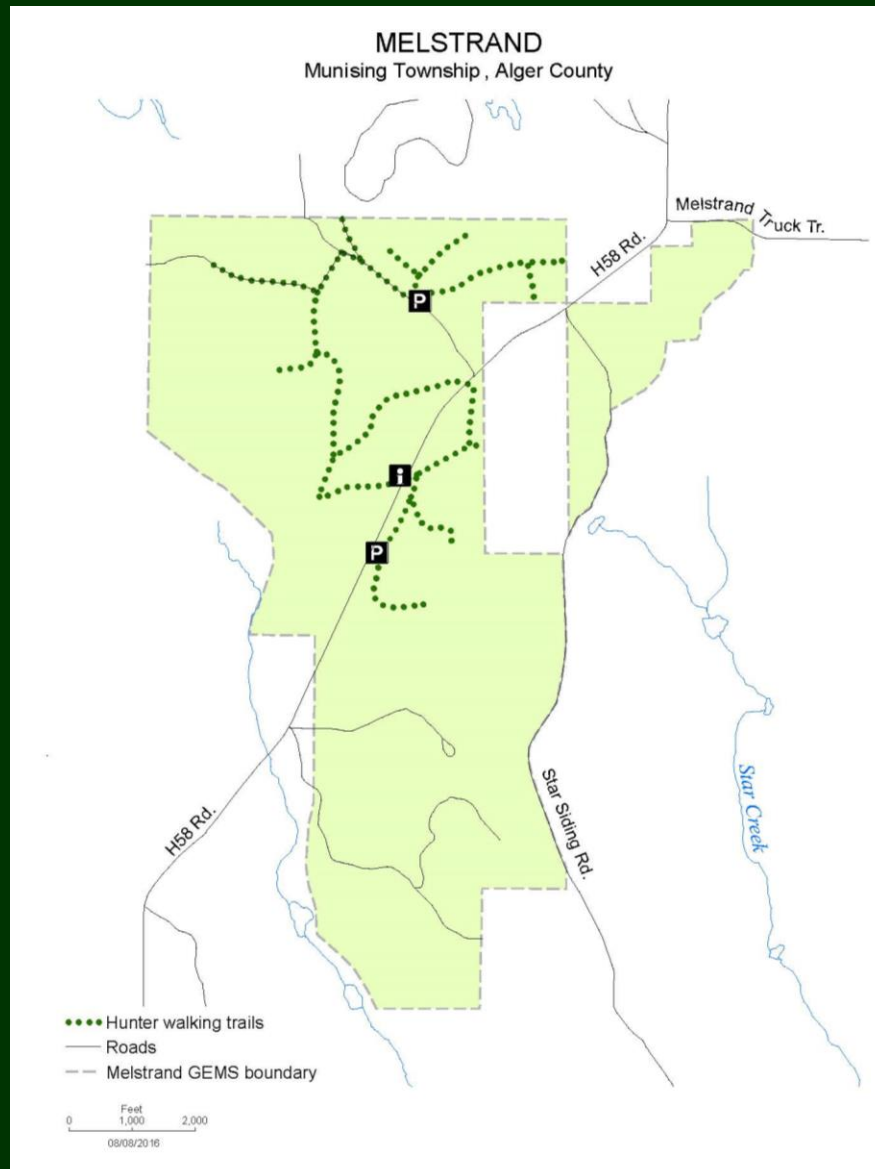
Cedar River



Garden Grade



Melstrand



Thank You

